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# SUCCESS WITH PLANTS

WYMAN'S  
Framingham Nurseries  
FRAMINGHAM-MASSACHUSETTS

# SUCCESS WITH PLANTS

Plants are living organisms—perishable if neglected. As with animals, they require food and water. Unlike animals, they cannot make known their wants when neglected. For this reason, precaution should be taken to provide suitable conditions for their success.

Do not blame the nurseryman for the failure of your plants—if you persist in neglecting them. The most he can do is to grow them well, keep them healthy, and ship them so as to arrive at destination in good condition. After that the result is in your hands. If you want your plants to flourish, treat them well.

This is not difficult—the directions for planting and after-care contained in this pamphlet, if carefully observed, will lead to success.

If any special information on care of plants is wanted, write us for it. We are always glad to do all we can to promote greater success with plants.

## SOIL-PREPARATION

Except where specifically noted to the contrary, the plants mentioned in this book will succeed in ordinary garden soil. However, up to certain limits, the better the plants are fed, the better will they succeed. For fertilizer we recommend the use of horse, cow, or combined stable manure. This should either be placed below and out of immediate reach of the roots, or on top of the soil after planting. The manure should not come in contact with the roots, and in no case should it be green or fresh—it must be well-rotted and cold. Otherwise your planting will be a failure. The soil should be well pulverized so as to thoroughly fill the spaces between the roots. Pulverization may be accomplished by spading the soil and breaking up all lumps.

Make sure that the soil does not have surface water standing upon it at any time of the year. Wet soil can be drained by means of ditches and tiles. Where this is impractical, raise the ground above the water-level by filling in with additional loam.

Except in extreme cases, it is unnecessary to remove the present soil and bring in new. This is laborious and expensive and should be avoided where possible. In extreme cases, where the soil is so gravelly that it will not hold moisture, or where it has been poisoned by chemicals or by illuminating gas, this process is, of course, necessary. Remove the soil to a depth of 18 to 24 inches. Put at the bottom a layer of rotting leaves, leaf-mould, or stable manure. Mix in some loam and tramp down hard so as to prevent air-spaces. The resulting layer will help keep moisture in the ground. Then fill in the rest of the bed or hole with a good grade of loam.

# SETTING THE PLANTS

Upon receiving your plants from the nursery, make sure that the roots are moist. If from delay in transportation they appear dry and withered, set them to soak overnight in a tub of water—and immediately notify the nursery of that fact. Many sorts will pull through by this process of soaking. In such a case, a mere sprinkling will do no good—soak them.

Keep your plants out of the wind and sun and wet them as often as necessary to keep them moist. When you take them out to plant, keep the roots covered with wet burlap until the plant is actually set in the hole—then throw in the earth without delay. Don't dig the holes much in advance of planting or the soil-moisture will evaporate. Dig the hole rather larger than the spread and depth of the roots.



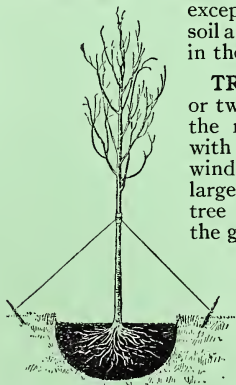
**DECIDUOUS SHRUBS** have spreading roots. Shake and spread them out well. Set plant a trifle deeper than they were planted in the nursery—the old surface-mark is easily seen on the stems. Fill hole nearly full, a shovelful at a time, treading it in firmly with the feet. Pour in water, as much as the soil will hold. After the

water has soaked away, fill the rest of the hole and tread firmly.

**EVERGREENS** are shipped to you with a ball of earth protecting the roots. Set them in the hole, burlap and all. Then untie the burlap and remove it by cutting it away, except that which is directly under the ball of earth. Never leave all the burlap on unless it is of the very gauziest sort. Fill the hole and water as above—



except that you should give the soil a second soaking before filling in the very top.



**TREES** should be set an inch or two deeper than they were in the nursery. Then proceed as with shrubs. If planted in windy spots, or if the trees are large and top-heavy, rope each tree to stakes driven solidly in the ground. Put burlap or some similar material between the rope and the bark to prevent chafing of the bark. Keep the ropes tightened. Remove ropes and burlap at the end of the next growing season.

## SETTING THE PLANTS, continued

**ROSES** are surface feeders; do not bury them. Plant them so that the tops of the roots are an inch or two below the surface of the ground. Roses like rich soil. Oftentimes, to make a rose-garden, heavy applications of manure are applied to the soil. This results in too much unbalanced nitrogen. It will make the roses grow, but the growth will be soft and watery; the plants are apt to be hurt and even killed during the following winter. Also, the plant is more susceptible to fungi and other diseases. To overcome this, add a commercial fertilizer, high in potash and phosphoric acid, and with little or no nitrogen. Not only will it improve the plants but also the flowers.



**PERENNIALS** should be planted so that the crown (the point at the top of the roots where the top-growth starts) is just level with the surface of the ground. Spread the roots slightly, work the earth among them, firm it, and water.

**VINES** have roots similar to Deciduous Shrubs, and should be planted in the same manner.

## WATERING

Plant-food can only be absorbed by plant roots when dissolved in water—if water is lacking, the presence of an abundance of fertilizer is no help. There can be no set rule for frequency of watering excepting to examine the soil a few inches from the surface. Water often enough so that the soil is always moist and cool—but not so as to keep the soil in a muddy condition, as this will rot the roots. Just a little thought and common sense is needed. In watering, do not sprinkle; put the hose on the ground near the base of the plant; then let the water run till the ground will hold no more. Then move to the next plant. One such watering in a time of drought is more effective than a dozen sprinklings.

Never spray the tops of plants during the heat and glare of the day. Reserve that operation for after-supper exercise. The drops of water act as a magnifying glass; they concentrate the rays from the sun so effectively as to cause the leaves to turn brown and die—commonly known as water-burning.

# PRUNING

In the past there have been many superstitions as to the right time for pruning plants—certain times were beneficial, other times were harmful.

Exhaustive experiments over the last ten or more years have exploded those old notions. As far as the welfare of the plants is concerned, the time to prune is always "When the knife is sharp."

There are, however, certain other considerations to be taken into account—principally the appearance of the plants. Don't prune too long in advance of the next growing season. If you do, there will be a period of many months during which the plants will look harsh and less attractive than they would if pruned later.

In all sorts of trees and plants, always cut out all dead wood as soon as discovered.

The different types of plants are taken up in detail below:

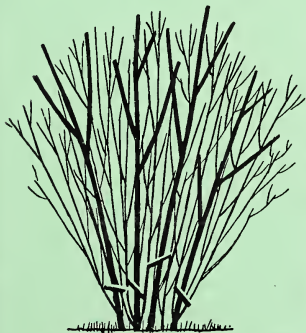
## DECIDUOUS SHRUBS

Shrubs should be pruned after planting. Go over them lightly, cutting off from one-fourth to one-third of their height, doing this in such manner as to make a smooth outline to the planting as a whole, graduating the line from a tall height in the rear rows to a low height in the front.

After shrubs have become established they sometimes become altogether too branched. In this case do not merely cut



Shrub pruned after planting—to smooth up the outline and start the shrub growing evenly.



Well-established shrub. Some of the older stems have become too heavy. Cut out the heavy wood as indicated, leaving the younger stems standing, then trimming the tops of the younger branches to smooth the outline—if necessary.

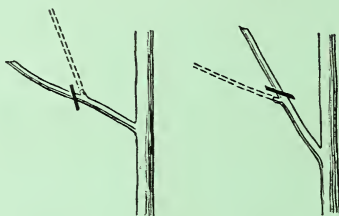
off the tops, but rather cut out some of the older branches, then cut off the tops of the remaining branches sufficiently to smooth the outline.

After the shrubs are established, pruning should be done after the blooming period is over and before the next growth begins. Early-flowering sorts should be pruned immediately after the flowering period has ended. Summer-blooming varieties

## PRUNING, continued

should be pruned during the latter part of the next winter, or the early part of the spring. In this way the most bloom can be obtained and the plants kept in good condition.

### DECIDUOUS TREES



Occasionally it is desirable to develop the heads of Deciduous Trees into some particular style. In general, late winter or early spring is best, although midsummer is excellent.

To develop a tall, narrow head, prune just above a bud on the top side of the branch. To form a low, spreading head, prune just above a bud on the side or underneath the branch.

### SMALL FINE-BRANCHED EVERGREENS



Evergreens in Foundation Plantings should be pruned once in every year or two. We recommend a light shearing every year rather than a heavy pruning at longer intervals.

For best results this should be done late in May, or early in June, just after the new growth has started. By lightly shearing, as shown by the lines in the sketch, any unevenness in outline may be corrected, and the new growth, during the rest of the growing season, will cover up any harshness in appearance immediately following the shearing. For this work, Hedge Shears are best.

## PRUNING, continued

### LARGE COARSE-BRANCHED EVERGREENS

This class of Evergreens seldom wants pruning, for they are usually planted in places where large size is wanted, also where natural, rather than formal effect is desired. However, occasionally a large Evergreen may develop more on one side than on another. In this case merely cut back the offending branches to whatever degree necessary to restore the symmetry.

It is seldom desirable to cut back the leader of the main trunk. When it is necessary to do so, this should be done with care, otherwise it will result in



several leaders taking the place of the one removed. If, however, the leader is cut back while it is soft and watery, taking care to leave at least an inch or two, it will generally set a bud on the top of the stub and next year's leader will be single and straight. There is usually one week in the year when this should be done—about the middle of June. Don't do this by the calendar—do it according to the condition of the leader—when it is soft, green, and watery, not when stiff and woody.

### ROSES

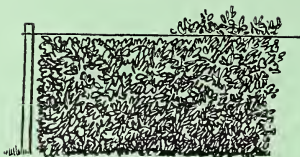
The problem in pruning roses is to get rid of old, weak, diseased and twiggy growth, leaving only clean, green stems of the previous year's growth. When the plant has been reduced to such new stems only, they may be shortened as much as judgment indicates, always bearing in mind that the more wood left the more flowers; and the more cut away, the fewer and finer the flowers will be.

Hybrid Tea, Tea, and Hybrid Perpetuals should be pruned in March and April. Hardy climbers should be pruned immediately after flowering, taking out the old stems which have bloomed, leaving only the new fresh shoots coming from the roots or near the ground.

Rugosas and such shrubby roses need only light pruning to keep them within bounds, with the occasional removal of old and weakened stems.



## HEDGES



Hedge-trimming is the simplest of all types of pruning. To get a straight line, set stakes, and draw a string tightly between them. Follow the line. Practice is about the only essential; the knack is easily acquired. Prune hedges whenever the twigs grow beyond the usual trimming-line and give a ragged appearance. Forms of hedge-trimming are variable, square-cornered with flat tops, rounding tops, or even Gothic arch tops.

## CULTIVATION

Do not let the soil around the plants remain packed down for any long period of time. Keep it stirred by hoeing to a depth of 3 to 4 inches; this will allow the air to get into the topsoil and stimulates beneficial soil bacteria to greater effort; also, rain will more easily soak into the ground if the earth is kept cultivated.

## WINTER CARE

The Evergreens, Deciduous Shrubs and Trees, and Vines need no winter protection.

Where wintry blasts are severe, it is wise to protect Broad-Leaved Evergreens. The best method is to collect pine boughs from the woods, stick the stems solidly into the ground, and droop the boughs up and over the plants to be protected.

**ROSES.** Mound earth up for a height of 10 to 12 inches. Cover this with leaves, keeping them from blowing away by laying boughs or poles upon them.

**PERENNIALS.** Cover lightly with hay or straw.

For success with plants, follow carefully the directions given in this pamphlet.

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